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FILES

July 13, 1954

Paul B. Pearson

Discussion with Trust Territory Officials - Honolulu

En route out to Eniwetok, Mr. Midkiff, High Commissioner for the Trust Territory, indicated his desire for me to visit at Majuro and to see the natives that were moved from Rongelap. En route back I visited with the Trust Territory officials in Honolulu on July 13. Mr. H. G. Marshall, attorney for the Trust Territory, Dr. Saul Risenberger, and Mr. Kisen Carrol were in the office.

I gave them my general impressions of the natives from Rongelap, that is--that these people are reasonably well provided for, but that they are naturally anxious to return to their homes at Rongelap. I told the TT people that we are periodically collecting water, food plants and fish from the environs of Rongelap for radioactivity measurements, and that these data will provide a basis for deciding when the natives can safely be moved back to Rongelap. The Trust Territory people are looking forward to the medical team examination of the natives this fall.

Mr. Marshall said that they would give their full support to arrangements with Mr. Neas at Majuro for the periodic collections of water and coral from the various atolls of interest to us in the Marshalls. After deciding with the Biophysics Branch and NYCO just what materials we want collected, I will write the Trust Territory officials instructions on the locations and methods for making such collections. Mr. Marshall said that if we wish, they will be glad for similar arrangements to be worked out with various other districts of the Trust Territory. This could include the Caroline and the Marianna Islands. Marshall indicated that they would much prefer for this to be done directly with the Trust Territory rather than for B&B to deal with the Pacific Science Board and Dr. Coolidge.

The headquarters of the Trust Territory are to be moved from Honolulu to Guam. Since Mr. Midkiff definitely will not be going to Guam, I think we should develop contacts with Mr. Delmas Nucker, who is the Deputy High Commissioner.

CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED  
OR CHANGED TO  
BY AUTHORITY OF DOE/DPC  
L. CUSCHIERA  
REVIEWED BY [Signature] DATE 2/7/65

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Memorandum to Files

From what information I have been able to obtain from several sources, it seems that the productivity of the island or atoll that the Bikinians are now on is much less than it was for Bikini. It seems to me that much might be done towards improving the productivity of these atolls through the selection and development of improved varieties of taro and coconuts and possibly the introduction of new crops. This might follow a pattern similar to the program of the Rockefeller Foundation in Mexico. The advances made by this program were discussed by Dr. Stakman at one of the recent meetings of the ACB&M. It seems to me that the Commission's interest in the Marshall Islands and responsibility to the Marshallese might well justify providing funds for a plant geneticist who would look into the possibilities of developing improved varieties of food plants. Any achievements in this direction should be reflected in increasing the economic and nutritional status of the Marshallese.

I recommend that this be discussed and considered within the Division.

CC: Dr. Bugher

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